

TABLE 6-continued

Influence of Wash Treatment Upon the Texture of Fresh Mushrooms.	
Treatment	Resistance (Kg)
3 1000 ppm Sodium Metabisulfite, 90 s	0.567 (A)
4 pH 11.0, 30 s/Neutralization*, 60 s	0.556 (A)
5 1000 ppm Hydrogen Peroxide + 1000 ppm EDTA, 90 s	0.546 (A)

\*Neutralization wash = 0.6% erythorbic acid + 2.4% sodium erythorbate + 1000 ppm EDTA + 1000 ppm calcium chloride

Values are means of three replicates. Means followed by the same letter are not different at  $p < 0.05$

TABLE 7

Quality of Canned Mushrooms: High-pH treatment vs. Sulfite and R.O. Water Treatments	
Treatment	Whiteness (L-value)
High-pH	64.01 (A)
Sulfite	61.23 (B)
R.O. Water	59.13 (C)

Values are the mean of four replications. Means followed by the same letter are not significantly different at  $p < 0.05$

TABLE 8

Canning Yield for Washed Mushrooms High-pH Treatment vs. Sulfite and R.O. Water Treatments	
Treatment	Canning Yield (%)*
Sulfite	65.70 (A)
High-pH	65.53 (A)
R.O. Water	64.85 (B)

\*Canning yield was computed on a fresh-weight basis. Values are means of four replicates. Means followed by the same letter are not significantly different at  $p < 0.05$

TABLE 9

Coliform Counts on Mushrooms Washed Before Freezing: High-pH Treatment vs. Sulfite and R.O. Water Treatments				
Treatment	Coliform Count (CFU/g)			
	2 weeks	4 weeks	6 weeks	8 weeks
Sulfite	120	375	30	10
R.O. Water	<10	<10	10	10
High pH	<10	<10	<10	<10

Values are means of three replicate plates each of  $10^{-1}$ ,  $10^{-2}$ , and  $10^{-3}$  dilutions.

APPENDIX TABLE 1

Effect of a Trisodium Phosphate (TSP) Wash on the Storage Quality of Fresh Mushrooms			
Treatment	Whiteness (L-value)		
	Day 0	Day 3	Day 6
1 Unwashed Control	90.39	87.32	81.33
2 R.O. Water, 120 s	93.36	91.60	86.61
3 1000 ppm Sodium Metabisulfite, 120 s	95.10	92.63	89.53
4 10% Trisodium Phosphate, 120 s	60.42	58.84	58.91

APPENDIX TABLE 2

Influence of Reduced TSP Concentration and a Neutralization Wash on the Performance of a TSP Mushroom Preservative Treatment	
Treatment	Whiteness (L-value)
1 R.O. Water, 120 s	87.89
2 1000 ppm Sodium Metabisulfite, 120 s	93.16
3. 10% Trisodium Phosphate (TSP), 120 s	72.45
4 10% TSP, 60 s; R.O. Water, 60 s	80.22
5. 10% TSP, 60 s; 4.50% E.A., 60 s	90.82
6 10% TSP, 60 s; 2.25% NaE, 60 s	89.23
7 10% TSP, 60 s; 2.25% E.A., 60 s	90.71
8. 5% TSP, 60 s; 2.25% E.A., 60 s	87.92
9 2.5% TSP, 60 s; 2.25% E.A., 60 s	89.59
10. 2.5% TSP, 60 s; 1.00% E.A., 60 s	88.35

E.A. = erythorbic acid

NaE = sodium erythorbate

APPENDIX TABLE 3

Evaluation of TSP-vs. Sodium Bicarbonate-Based High-pH Preservative Treatments	
Treatment	Whiteness (L-value)
1 R.O. Water, 120 s	86.63
2 1000 ppm Sodium Metabisulfite, 120 s	94.52
3. 10% TSP, 60 s; 4.50% E.A., 60 s	87.97
4 10% TSP, 60 s; 2.25% B.A., 60 s	87.45
5 5% NaHCO <sub>3</sub> , 60 s; 2.25% B.A., 60 s	88.62
6 0.05M NaHCO <sub>3</sub> , 60 s; 0.2% E.A., 60 s	92.66

We claim:

1. A method for preserving fresh and processed mushrooms, comprising the steps of:

contacting the mushrooms with an antimicrobial buffer solution having a pH of from about 9.5 to about 11.0; and

rinsing the mushrooms one or more times immediately after said contacting step with pH-neutralizing buffer solutions of erythorbic acid and sodium erythorbate, in ratios of about 1:4, having a sufficient pH to return the mushrooms to the mushroom physiological pH of about 6.5.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said antimicrobial solution is 0.05-0.5M sodium bicarbonate buffer solution, and the pH-neutralizing buffer solutions are about 0.04-0.6% erythorbic acid and about 1.6-2.4% sodium erythorbate.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein said contacting step is carried out for about 30-60 seconds at about 10-35°C., and said rinsing step is carried out for about 60-120 seconds at about 10-25°C.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein said pH-neutralizing buffer solutions further include 1000 ppm calcium-disodium EDTA.

5. The method of claim 3 wherein said pH-neutralizing buffer solutions further include 1000 ppm calcium chloride.

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6. The method of claim 3 wherein said pH-neutralizing buffer solutions further include 1000 ppm calcium-disodium EDTA and 1000 ppm calcium chloride.

7. The method of claims 2-6 wherein said antimicrobial solution is a 0.05M sodium bicarbonate buffer solution having a pH of about 10.5-11.0, and the pH-neutralizing buffer solutions include about 0.6% erythorbic acid and

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about 2.4% sodium erythorbate, and said contacting step is carried out for about 30 seconds at about 25° C., and said rinsing step is carried out for about 60 seconds at about 10° C.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein said antimicrobial solution is a 5-10% tribasic sodium phosphate solution.

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